

THE DAILY DEMOCRAT

PUBLISHED BY
THE AKRON DEMOCRAT CO.EDW. S. HARTER FRED W. GAYER
Editors and Managers.

ED. H. DE LA COURT, Mgr. Advertising Dept.

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Ed. H. De La Court.Entered at the postoffice at Akron,
Ohio, as second-class matter.Delivered every evening by carrier boy
6 CENTS A WEEK.

By mail \$3.00...\$1.50 for six months

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF AKRON.

TO TELEPHONE THE DEMOCRAT CALL
No. 180.

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1900.

THE BARS ARE UP.

The Ohio Legislature has properly, if slowly, loosened Akron's fetters, by removing the restriction to \$200,000 in all for the purchase of the water works, an amount so inadequate as to block all proceedings. With this out of the way and the 10 to one vote of the people for city ownership, will they wait the water company's pleasure to purchase the present apparatus, or build the city's own works? Who can tell? Which shall it be?—Sunday Star.

Editor Reynolds and a great many other well-meaning citizens of Akron should get rid of the mistaken notion that the city is at liberty to build its own water works plant whenever it wishes so to do.

By the terms of a contract made by the Board of City Commissioners, with the Akron Water Works company in 1894, the city, for 20 years, voluntarily forfeited its right to build its own water works plant, and agreed, for a like period, that if the people should ever desire to own their own plant, they should purchase the plant of the Akron Water Works company, at a price to be agreed upon by a board of appraisers.

In other words the contract provided that the city should buy the plant of the Akron Water Works company and no other at practically its own price, or forego the right to public ownership.

The board of appraisers is to consist of five members, two to be named by the city, two by the company, the four to choose a fifth, and their finding of the amount to be paid to be binding upon the city.

Should the company be averse to selling, except at its own figure, there is nothing in the contract to prevent the two appraisers chosen by the company from refusing to concur in the choice of the fifth appraiser, and this deadlock, very similar to that now existing with reference to the Board of City Commissioners, could be prolonged indefinitely unless the city's appraisers would agree to appoint a man named by the Water company's appraisers and thus, as before stated, allow the company to fix practically its own price upon the property.

This is the contract which Councilman Paul believes to be illegal, and which he desires to have tested in the courts. Certain it is that a more one-sided contract, unless it be that which was stolen from the people by the local telephone monopoly, has never been thrust upon the people of Akron by the officials charged with looking after the interests of the city, and more than ninety per cent of the people of Akron are ready to encourage Mr. Paul in his demand that the legality of the contract be submitted to a test.

And now the three City Commissioners are talking about making room for another half dozen of political favorites upon the police force, under the plea that their appointment is a "public necessity." The fact that the police fund is already overdrawn more than \$2,000 and that the city will

LOSS OF
WAGES AND SUFFERING
A thing of the past.

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I am more than pleased to acknowledge the good done me.

G. W. NORTHUP.
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have to borrow money to pay the present officers' salaries for the next year, at least, seems to make no difference to the Commissioners. Council should call a halt upon this latest extravagance by serving notice upon the Commissioners that Council will not concur in the payment of the salaries of the extra policemen if they are appointed.

MR. AMER, "MARTYR."

While Mr. Amer was a member of the Council from the Fourth ward he voted to railroad the local telephone monopoly's 25-year franchise through the Council and then stubbornly refused to change his vote when he found that the franchise did not meet with the approval of his constituents. For thus misrepresenting their wishes, Mr. Amer was turned down for re-nomination by the people of his ward, at one of the best attended caucuses ever held in the ward.

Thereupon Mr. Amer did all in his power, but without success, to defeat the man who was the choice of the Democratic caucus for the Council. Ever since Mr. Amer failed of nomination, Dobson's paper has been holding him up to the people as a martyr, and as a climax to this course comes the determination of Judge Anderson to reward Mr. Amer with the Fourth ward assessors' p.

The citizens of the Fourth ward do not want Mr. Amer to be rewarded for his faithfulness to their interests, nor do they want him to be placed in a position where he could "get even," were he so disposed, with those of his neighbors against whom he holds a grievance much exaggerated to his own consciousness by the "sympathy" of Dobson.

It is in keeping with the eternal fitness of things that the same three City Commissioners whose votes rattled the telephone franchise steal should have voted to give to Mr. Amer the Fourth ward assessors' p, his vote having enabled the company to get its steal through the Council, but neither the people nor the Democratic party owe him anything, and Council will be justified in opposing to the uttermost the attempt of Czar Anderson to pay, at the people's expense, the political debt he owes Mr. Amer.

The Democrat told the people at the time what it thought of Mr. Amer's vote upon the telephone franchise steal, along with its opinion of other Democratic officials who have since been driven from the public service for their faithlessness to the public interests upon the same proposition, and it recalls these things now simply to remind the people why Judge Anderson, his proxies and his organ are making such heroic efforts to convince the citizens of Akron that Mr. Amer should be regarded and rewarded as a martyr.

If Mr. Amer had done what was right for his constituents he would be an honored member of the Council today, and would not be impelled to crawl before the throne of the Czar begging for such scant crumbs of political favors and sympathy as it is within the power of the Proxies and Dobson, with the consent of the Czar, to bestow.

MR. DAVIS' FIRST SPEECH.

The Hon. Webster Davis, the ex-Assistant Secretary of the Interior, who resigned his position after having visited the Transvaal, addressed a large audience in behalf of the Boers, at Washington, last night. He concluded his address with the following exhortation:

"Let us not drift away from the prin-

ciples and doctrines of our fathers. Let us listen to the cry for help from all who struggle for liberty and justice. Let it not be said by future historians that this great republic arose in splendor and grandeur, that made the world stare, but it hated justice and liberty; it halted on its bright and shining march; it fell and as it was going down the despots of earth, grinning from the tops of bloody thrones, shouted: 'We told you so, we told you so.'"

Mr. Davis places entirely too much emphasis upon the "principles and doctrines of our fathers" to command very serious attention from the Administration. By "our fathers" he doubtless refers to Washington, Jefferson, and others who have been denounced as confidence men by Administration leaders and newspapers for promulgating a set of doctrines and principles and a constitution that does not justify the latter-day policy of imperialism.

A SPLENDID SUGGESTION.

The Akron Germania makes the following note-worthy suggestion regarding the raising of the \$15,000 for the City Hospital:

"It should be an easy matter for the citizens of Akron to raise this money. In view of the fact that the hospital is of the most benefit to the working classes—for the well-to-do and sick who are taken there are made to pay for services and benefits received—the suggestion will not be out of place, that it would be proper for the working men and women in our factories, shops, stores, railroads, etc., to make up at least half of the amount required by small weekly contributions. If 6,000 persons will contribute from now on until July 15th, covering a period of 13 weeks, ten cents every Saturday, the sum of \$7,800, or over half of the \$15,000 wanted, will be raised. The collection of these ten cents could easily be controlled by the foremen and superintendents of the various manufacturing establishments and stores."

The Ohio Legislature will adjourn next Monday. Judged by what it has done or tried to do in the interests of the people, the present Legislature has been very much of a "nonentity."

What do the cities that have been boasting of gifts of \$50,000 libraries from Mr. Carnegie think of the \$100,000 present Mr. O. C. Barber has made to the Akron hospital?

The Senate is going to take a vote upon the Quay case this week and it looks as if the Pennsylvania boss will win. It will be somewhat surprising if he doesn't.

Gen. Otis is coming back from the Philippines. Wonder if he will want to be President, too?

Admiral Dewey's journey to the White House will be mostly up-grade work.

AS OTHERS SEE IT.

(Sunday Star.)

The Legislature had lots of local and other new bills last week. In Akron alone was it, "too late, too late" to loosen the deadlock and restore their right of self-rule to our own people.

Two or three dozen bills were introduced in the Ohio Legislature the last week or more on the way, and it was not "too late" for anything except the request of the people of Akron for the simplest sort of a change in their city Commissioners' statute, that would restore them the right to elect their own officials, and thus to loosen the deadlock that will now be doubled after next Monday.

Lived at Richfield.

Mrs. Frances Hammond Oviatt, wife of Mr. O. M. Oviatt, died early Sunday morning at the family residence, No. 257 Franklin avenue, Cleveland. The funeral will be held from the family home at 1 o'clock Tuesday morning. Mrs. Oviatt, until 12 years ago, lived in Richfield, O. Her husband, who is a retired business man, is a son of Gen. Oviatt, who died about 20 years ago.

William Bell, of 113 Bowers st., has been confined to his home for two weeks by illness.

CODE BILL

Will be Turned Down

Without Even Coming to
Vote In House.The Senate Will Vote to
Pass It.Effort to Reconsider Adjourn-
ment VoteWill Not be Successful—Last Week
of Session.

(Special Correspondence.)

Columbus, O., April 9.—The rush of work in the General Assembly this week will be tremendous. Every one of the law-makers has some local bill or other which he will try to railroad through the Legislature and there are numerous important general measures upon which no action has as yet been taken. Although there will be a determined effort upon the part of certain members of the House to secure a re-scheduling of the resolution providing for final adjournment on Monday, April 16, it will prove unsuccessful. The second of the two general appropriation bills will be considered as a special order of business in the House on Tuesday and will be passed as soon as possible. The bill will be messaged to the senate immediately, and there will be no delay in its enactment into law. As soon as this bill is out of the way, there will be no very strong argument against the adjournment. The municipal code bill will come to a vote in the Senate on Tuesday and will probably be passed by the Upper House. The politicians have succeeded in delaying its consideration so long that the members of the House will be saved the embarrassment of declaring themselves upon it. The Legislature has thus missed its one opportunity of doing something which would really count. Nothing of any general importance has been accomplished by the 74th General Assembly.

Governor Nash has at last made up his mind to send the names of Ex-Governor Bushnell's recess appointees to the Senate for confirmation this week. He persistently declines to make any announcement as to the few who will fall to be retained in office until the expiration of their several terms and all prophecies are without foundation. It is pretty well understood that Hon. W. S. Matthews, State Insurance Commissioner, is the only incumbent of an important office who will not be confirmed and the Governor doesn't know himself who will succeed him. Since the defeat of Senator Patterson's bill abolishing the Board of Pardons and creating in its stead a Board of Pardon Advisers, it is almost certain that the members of the present board will be asked to resign. A large number of the terms of trustees of the various state institutions appointed by ex-Governor Bushnell have already expired and the successors will be named this week. In spite of the fact that several of the leading newspapers of the state are announcing every day who will receive the various offices, speculation is entirely fruitless. The Governor says he doesn't know himself, and past experience shows that, even if he did, he would be very apt to change his mind before the final word goes forth.

The Board of Managers of the Penitentiary is working in unison with the state administration in the matter of announcing the selection of guards and other employees to serve the big prison during the coming two years. The state Republican convention is close at hand and the Governor and those who dictate to him are using every effort to hold the various counties in line for Laylin for Secretary of State.

AMUSEMENTS.

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There is a positive assurance that the state will not under any circumstances whatsoever pay more than \$500,000 toward the expense of the Ohio Centen-

nal. The bill authorizing the expenditure of \$750,000 for such purpose is hanging helplessly in the air, as a scarecrow hangs in a cherry tree, an awful warning that the tree in question, the state treasury, is not to be rifled.

Now there is a plan whereby the advocates of the big appropriation hope to effect a compromise. They believe that they can secure the passage of the \$1,000,000 bill through the Senate, provided they yield so far as the appointment of a new commission is concerned. They think the House will concur in the amendment providing for the appointment of a commission if the amount is left untouched.

Their hopes are probably groundless, for, even if such an arrangement could be agreed upon, even if the Senate could be persuaded to authorize the expenditure of \$1,000,000, Governor Nash will positively appoint no one upon the new commission who does not pledge himself to agree to the spending of not more than half the amount named. His decision seems to us, every member of the present commission from receiving a re-appointment, for each is believed to be in favor of expending as much as possible.

The office of actuary of the state insurance department seems to have escaped for many years the notice of ambitious young politicians of both parties. The fact that any public office fails to attract the attention of those who like to receive good incomes for comparatively simple work is remarkable in itself. In this instance, the absence of interest is little short of miraculous for the actuary probably puts into his pocket at least \$7,000 per year. J. A. McEwen has acted in this capacity for the past 13 years, receiving the appointment again and again from the different superintendents of insurance. Mr. McEwen has an office in this city, but not at the state house.

The revenue from the office is derived entirely from fees. It is the actuary's duty to figure out for Massachusetts, Canadian and Ohio companies the amount of insurance placed by each upon the lives of citizens of Ohio. For each \$1,000 he places upon his books he receives one cent. That is to say, he is given one cent for every \$1,000 of insurance placed by certain companies upon the lives of the people of Ohio. Some of the larger corporations pay him more than \$1,000 per year and it is estimated that the actuary's entire income is fully seven times that amount.

Some of the office seekers are just awakening to the fact that here is an opportunity to serve one's state well worth accepting. Mr. McEwen will meet with some opposition when he asks the new superintendent of insurance to re-appoint him.

ROBERT O. RYDER.

More Time Asked

The Cleveland, Wadsworth & Southern railroad company, which a year ago obtained a franchise for an electric line from Cleveland, through Brooklyn and Strongsville, to Medina, made application Saturday to the Cuyahoga county commissioners for a further extension of time to begin work on the road. No explanation of the delay accompanied the application, although the company's attorney admitted that no work had yet been done. The commissioners decided to await an explanation before acting on the request.

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